AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following rewritten title:

Page 2, second paragraph:

Now we discovered a biological material which has an ability of converting one of the optical isomers of a certain amino acid to the other of the optical isomers, the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and the ability described above being not inhibited seriously by an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor -chloro-D-alanine, -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, and finally established the present invention by applying said biological material to the production of an optically active amino acid of the amino acid described above.

Page 2, last paragraph bridging page 3:

1. a method for producing from one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) of an amino acid represented by Formula (1):

R-CH(NH2)-COOH (1)

(wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group) (hereinafter, it is sometimes referred to as the amino acid (1)) the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) to said the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor -chloro-D-alanine, -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with

said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I). (Hereinafter, it is sometimes referred to as the method of the present invention.)

Page 4, first full paragraph:

8. a method for improving the optical purity of an amino acid represented by Formula (1):

$$R\text{-}CH(NH_2)\text{-}COOH \qquad (1)$$

(wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group), said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) of said amino acid to the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor β-chloro-D-alanine, β-chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with said amino acid represented by Formula (1).

Page 5, fourth paragraph:

A biological material which can be employed in the present invention is a biological material which has an ability of converting one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) of the amino acid (1) to the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), the isomerism being on the basis of an asymmetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and the ability being not inhibited seriously by an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor β-chloro-D-alanine, β-chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the biological material of the present invention).

Page 5, last paragraph bridging page 6.

The ability being not inhibited seriously by an ~~amino cid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor β-chloro-D-alanine, β-chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine described herein means that the converting ability in the presence of an inhibitor is about 70% or more of thrat in the absence of the inhibitor when assuming the ability in the absence of the inhibitor to be 100%. Furthermore, it is preferred to be the ability being not inhibited substantially by an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor β-chloro-D-alanine, β-chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine described herein means that the converting ability in the presence of an inhibitor is about 90 % or more of that in the absence of the inhibitor when assuming the ability in the absence of the inhibitor to be 100%.

Page 23, last paragraph:

0.2 ml of the cell suspension was combined with 1.8 mL of 100mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH7.0) containing D-p-chlorophenylalanine at 5.5 mM and an ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor shown in Table 6 at 1.1 mM, and incubated at 30°C for 2 hours with a reciprocal shaking at 250 rpm. Each reaction mixture was analyzed at an early stage of the reaction by HPLC to quantify L-p-chlorophenylalanine produced by the reaction. The results are represented as the relative values each based on 100% production of L-p-chlorophenylalanine in the absence of the respective ~~amino acid transferase~~ aminotransferase inhibitor.